Kingsdown
Bristol
29th Oct: 52 –

My dear Miss Weston

I feel assured you will not consider my thus addressing you any undue liberty or encroachment on your valuable time. Tho' personally strangers to each other, we are not really such – as fellow workers in a great cause we must be friends – Having too had the great pleasure of often seeing your Sisters in Bristol & for several years been aware of your devotedness to a cause that has interested me from childhood I have no feeling of strangeness in taking up my pen – my difficulty is to find any adequate words to express my feelings towards those friends of the Slave in the United States who have done & suffered so much for a cause in which it has never been in my power to do anything – Tho' my daughter Fanny – now Mrs Seaton of Hull, my name is known to you & it is, as in some small measure supplying her place in our Bristol Society that I thus venture to claim a portion of your regard. I hardly remember when Slavery was not my abhorrence but I only knew it, as it existed in our West India Islands – horrible every where, but certainly divested of some of its most, to me, revolting features – as displayed in America

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I allude particularly to our State being engaged as a legitimate commerce in supplying others with Slaves - but on looking back to the former apathy of our [illegible] I am surprised at the general ignorance of Slavery in the United States it was not apathy, for when any circumstance brought it before us there was plenty of feeling displayed - it was ignorance of its nature & especially of any way in which any thing could be done towards its removal - You will know how we were prejudiced against a large party - the true friend of the Slave and what a paralyzing effect this had on us - Our history is now known & however disagreeable it may be to be thus brought before the public & to be the subjects of blame & ridicule, we may well bear this light cross when we remember all you have had to bear on your side of the Atlantic & if we are the means of inducing some to enquire for themselves & not to listen to the misrepresentations of parties who think more of their own theological & political views than of the wrongs & sufferings of the Slaves, we shall be well repaid for the little annoyances we have to bear -

Every month shows us more & more how needed information is on the subject - there is right feeling - you never hear Slavery defended all unite in denouncing it - the most distant allusion to it will excite our largest public meetings into a tumult of execration but some are prepared to go much farther in action than others - but the interest they feel is not strong enough to induce them to devote time enough to the subject to understand it thoroughly - people are all so busy so engrossed by affairs at home, and the removal of social grievances that they have not time to investigate it, in its various bearings - you in America are so used to your party distinctions & names, they do not puzzle you, but I assure you that your 'Democrats' & Whigs so utterly differing from those among us bearing those titles one your 'Free Soilers' & Liberty party' with their sub-divisions do puzzle us in England & many who hate Slavery itself, put the subject away hopeless of understanding its intricacies & turn to some-thing they feel they can take up without the fear of doing wrong by uniting with any party. I do not sympathise with this languid hating but I state the fact - there has been almost infinite pains in both Countries to mystify the matter and just as an instance the statements made by Mr Thomson of New York at the great Meeting of the Congregational Union in the Matter, do a great deal of harm - because mixed up with so much that is good & true - We in England often hear it stated that persons may do more good by remaining in their organizations & trying to remove the evils in them than by leaving them & then bearing their testimony & acting at their Conventions - We were sickened with hearing this in the case of the Free Ch

Baptist Noel's leaving the Church to unite with
the Baptists - now Mr. Thomson thus speaks
Albert Barnes as doing more good by protesting
against Slavery in his denomination than he
w.d do by leaving it. I am ashamed that he ca
had the moral courage to expose the fallacy of
the principle - but men are too willing to sacrifi
truth rather than risk dis-union. This horrible
Slavery is such a gigantic evil - no terms are too
strong to describe its sinfulness or the sin of those
who uphold it. & it seems to human eyes
like trying to batter down a strong fortress by
throwing peas, but we know it is not by ma
power or by man's might that the greatest wi
have been overthrown or the greatest good wrought.
Our path of duty is plain, to use every just &
holy means God may put into our hands - to see
his help that we may use them wisely and
in dependence on him for their efficiency.

You so well know thro' our dear friend
in Park St. all our proceedings that I have l
information to give you - Our old Anti Slavery S
ciety's union with them certainly seems pro
dential - they supplied us with the information w
needed - they infused new life into our half-dea
Com.tee languishing for want of light, while th
uniting with us enabled them to do more than
they could do alone - I need not tell you that
their Unitarianism operates strongly against th

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our line - many cannot act comfortably with persons whose religious they are so strongly opposed to - not from mere feeling or without much respect & affection towards them as individuals - but from a conviction that God will not bless efforts made in conjunction with persons they consider opposed to his truth - I need not say that tho' a Calvinistic baptist myself I have no sympathy with such narrow views - still they operate strongly on many minds - but we have a most united Comttee and by a union of so many - separated by religious opinions but united in one great Object - we do more than either party could have done separately

We are of course all anxious for our new Periodicall the Anti Slavery advocate the 2d No. of which lies before me - it is a little undertaking, I hope our friends may not suffer any serious loss - some I fear must be looked for - it is temperate - we do not like any thing very strong in England yet firm in principle — I fear you will think me prosy, but really I feel as tho' I were writing to an old friend. So does one-ness of mind break down barriers.

Present my my kind regards to your dear Sister Miss Caroline Weston, I was very glad to hear of her safe arrival and that she found her brother better than she expected, I hope his health continues to improve. Do you ever purpose to visit England? I must now conclude assuring you of my warm sympathy in all your labours and trials, I can truly say we pray daily for the Slave in our family circle — In my day I cannot hope to see him freed — but it will come & he will stand forth a Man, not a thing — I am not very strong & have many family claims on me besides more public engagements such as Schools & the Poor — but what is in my power will not I trust be withheld —

We hope your Bazaar will succeed & will try to help it another year — domestic duties have prevented this. With feelings of the truest regard I remain dear Miss Weston

Yours very affectly

Anne Tribe

Ms. A.9.2.26.28